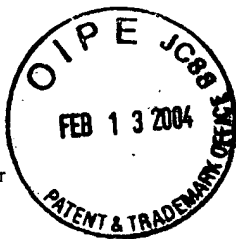


32692

Customer Number

Patent
Case No.: 58993US002**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

First Named Inventor: CARPENTER, JAMES B.
Application No.: 10/748628 Group Art Unit: Unknown
Filed: December 30, 2003 Examiner: Unknown
Title: FIBER SPLICE DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

2-10-04
Date

Tom Sanders
Signed by: Tom Sanders

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449, citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of any cited foreign patents, non-patent literature, and unpublished US application documents are enclosed. Pursuant to the waiver in the Pre-OG Notice, dated July 11, 2003, copies of US patents and published US patent applications are no longer required and are not enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

2/10/04
Date

By:

Gregg H. Rosenblatt
Gregg H. Rosenblatt, Reg. No.: 45,056
Telephone No.: (512) 984-7443

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Filing Date

December 30, 2003

First Named Inventor

James B. Carpenter

Art Unit

Unknown

Examiner Name

Unknown

Attorney Case Number

58993US002

Use as many sheets if necessary)

Page 1 of 1

U.S. Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code (if known)			
	A1	US- 4,824,197	04-25-1989	Patterson	
	A2	US- 5,102,212	04-07-1992	Patterson	
	A3	US- 5,138,681	08-11-1992	Larson et al	
	A4	US- 5,155,787	10-13-1992	Carpenter et al	
	A5	US- 5,159,653	10-27-1992	Carpenter et al	
	A6	US- 5,337,390	08-09-1994	Henson et al	
	A7	US- Re. 36,146	03-16-1999	Novack et al	
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation (Check if yes)
		Ctry. Code	Number-KindCode (If known)				
	B1						
	B2						
	B3						

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published
	C1	
	C2	
	C3	

RELATED U.S. APPLICATIONS - DO NOT PRINT

Examiner's Initials	Serial No.	Filing Date	Title
	10/668,401	09-23-2003	DEVICE FOR GRIPPING OPTICAL FIBERS

*Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.